The Long Island FISHERMAN

35¢

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

DECEMBER 8, 1977, ISSUE NO. 47

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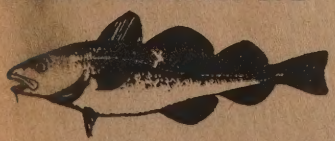

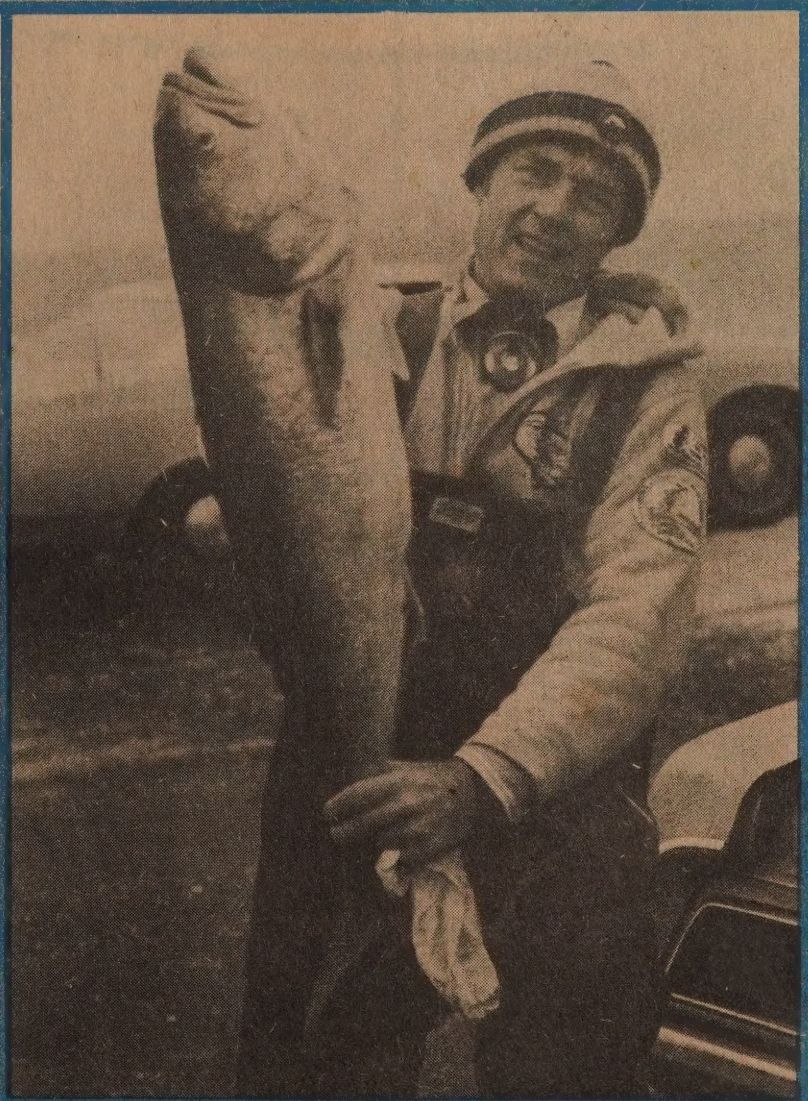

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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

VOL. 12, NO. 47 DECEMBER 8, 1977

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COMING NEXT WEEK:
SNELLING HOOKS

About the Cover—

Editor Doc Muller, member of the *High Hill Striper Club,* lifts a 20 lb. 12 oz. bluefish taken on a pencil popper in early November. The fish was one of many alligators caught during the phenomenal late fall run along several North Fork beaches.

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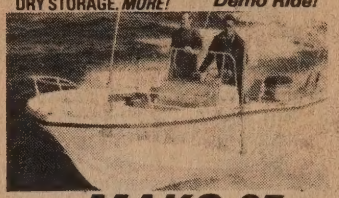

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From the Editor's Head

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The Waves of Change

On Saturday October 22, 1977, I was privileged to take part in a symposium on mariculture held at Southampton College. A number of speakers, including Dr. John Biardi (Director, New York Ocean Science Lab), State Senator Bernard Smith, and representatives of concerned interest groups on Long Island, presented a variety of opinions on the current state of the art and the future of mariculture.

It is clear that those attending did not agree on the extent to which government should promote mariculture. Baymen have certain reservations that mariculture, if successful, would either eliminate their profession or drive prices down so low that they would effectively be put out of business. To some extent these concerns are justified, but not insurmountable. At the same time, industrial representatives expressed concern and annoyance over the tremendous amount of red tape and bureaucracy that is involved in the process of establishing a commercial mariculture operation.

We can point towards many similar situations where differing perspectives come in opposition. Most of these conflicts exist because we are entering a period of transition relative to the role of government in marine science, education, and commerce. The tradition exists that there should be a minimum of rules and regulations governing the behavior of man in marine recreation and commerce. Such a "laissez faire" approach worked fine when there were few humans competing for the resources of the sea and when few humans contemplated the investigation of marine science and technology. Even government was happy to leave "hands-off" since such a philosophy minimized public financing and enforcement.

But the waves of change are now upon us and we can no longer afford to shrug our shoulders and turn away. The real value of the oceans both commercially and recreationally is becoming more and more apparent everyday. It is understandable that the old ways die hard in the minds and hearts of those who labored under them, but it is also true that change is the essence of progress and improvement. There is a **lesson** in this for all of us.

As the years move on, we must all expect certain benefits and inconveniences to disrupt and improve our lives. Many of the old ways will have to die if the overall qualities are to be maintained. In short, it will often be a choice between giving up something—some little piece of the whole—or losing the entire whole! This is often hard for us to understand. In the early stages of a battle we all tend to believe that we are immortal and, that since right is on our side, we will ultimately triumph. Thus, the strategy is mapped out and our generals proceed towards a total victory without compromise.

Perhaps in war this is good policy, but with respect to human relations and the development of civilization, this can be a very dangerous approach. At some point in the battle we find that we have not cornered righteousness completely, and that the other guy is also well prepared and in some ways may be right, too. Objective outsiders see this first and immediately are drawn to support the side which is most reasonable. At some point compromise will succeed, but if we wait too long, the war may be lost.

Thus, if we are going to mold a better world, and if our efforts towards preservation of our marine resources are to be effective, we will have to be prepared to give up some "piece of the hog." The essence of compromise is to end up with some result which makes neither side totally happy or totally unhappy. It would be nice if both human sides on important issues would walk away from controversy with this feeling and the fish and the rest of the marine life in our coastal oceans would go away totally and completely satisfied!

So, we do have a common goal after all! Without healthy and productive marine habitats, neither the commercial operator nor the sportsman can be happy. Why then aren't our strategies developed towards protecting the resources first and ourselves second?

As we enter into a new era in which governments will try to regulate and negotiate marine activities, perhaps we should make marine habitats our first priority. Perhaps we should forget the bitterness of the past. Perhaps we should try to take a **soft line**, instead of the traditional hard-nosed tough line. Why? For a better tomorrow, that's why!

Lillian L. Spiller

CLUB NEWS

FISHING BUGS LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS

The Fishing Bugs of Brooklyn have openings for several new members. The Bugs, one of the oldest clubs in Brooklyn, feature charter boat trips, Quincy Flounder trips, freshwater trips, social affairs, etc. The Bugs sponsored the largest fishing open house Brooklyn ever had. Fishing movies are featured at each monthly club meeting. For information call: Sam Ballin, 212-682-2446 days, and evenings UL 4-5307.

FISHING CONTEST RESULTS

The First Annual Fishing Contest of the Arthur Street Marina, 6/6/77 through 10/30/77, ended with the following contestants winning in three categories: Arthur Petrone - weakfish, 10 lbs.; George Fischer - striped bass, 39½ lbs., and Steve Cesarski - bluefish, 16 lbs.

CHUM LINES

ANOTHER METHOD TO KEEP CLAMS FRESH

I enjoyed the article entitled "How to Keep Clams Alive," which the author wrote for those evidently using the clams for bait.

I'd like to pass along my own method of keeping clams fresh for eating.

Make a brine of ⅓ cup salt (I use non-iodized) to each gallon of cold water. Then put the clams (as many as you have) in a big crock or glass jar or bowl, or even a big aluminum or porcelain kettle. Add enough water to cover them well, and set it almost anyplace, but not the warmest place in the house. Add a teaspoonful of yellow cornmeal by dropping it on the water surface. The first time I did this, I was shocked at the really dirty state of the water after about eight hours; so now I dump the first mix, wash the clams, and change the water again. Sometimes I even do this a third or fourth time or once a day if I keep them a week or so. I've kept them a week this way, and at the end of that time they were as fresh when opened as the day I got them, which is good news as far as fresh clams are concerned. I've been doing this for years, and have **never** had a clam die in the brine.

CORRECTION OF CHILLER

I should like to offer a correction concerning your report on the results of the Chiller Tournament sponsored by East Bay Anglers. The winning fish was not caught by me, as reported, but by a gentleman named Rocco Vignola of Merrick. Our boat (and club) did win the tournament on total weight, but my fish weighed only 42 lbs. and was the second largest.

By the way, speaking of our club, its correct name is "Oakdale Sportsmans Club," not "Oakdale Anglers." We are very proud of that name, especially this year with our outstanding success in tournament fishing. **Bruce S. Bandes.**

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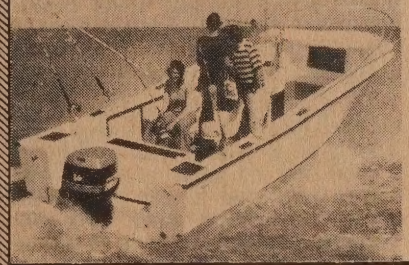

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NATIONAL SCENE

NEWS & NOTES ON THE WORLD OF FISHING
with Al Ristori

Congressmen Call for Elimination of Foreign Mackerel Quota in PMP

Fishermen in the New York-New Jersey area are fortunate in having some very strong allies in Congress—Congressmen willing to take on the bureaucracy in order to protect our fisheries. Indeed, their influence represents our only hope of stopping the 34,000 metric ton foreign allocation of mackerel in the Preliminary Management Plan.

Congressman John Murphy (D-Staten Is.), Chairman of the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee, scheduled a meeting with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) representatives in order to obtain further information about this situation. Congressman Norman Lent (R.-L.I.) replied to my letter stating "I strongly share your views on this matter and I have demanded of NOAA that the quota for directed foreign fishing on mackerel in the Atlantic be reduced to zero."

Congressman Lent further stated: "My letter to the Administrator of NOAA was consigned by seven other members of the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee from East Coast districts including the chairman, Rep. John Murphy. I have told NOAA that the mackerel fishery in the Atlantic is precisely the kind of fishery which Congress meant to be protected by the 200 Mile Law. Furthermore, I strongly believe that fishery management must be based on the best **scientific** data available and not upon the kind of political considerations which sometimes bear the appearance of the type of influence for which the State Department is noted. I have urged the Department of Commerce to re-affirm its commitment to the preservation of our marine resources and to set the quota for directed foreign fishing on mackerel at zero."

Congressman Edwin Forsythe (R.-N.J.), ranking minority member of the Subcommittee on Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation and the Environment, wrote a strong letter to NOAA Administrator Richard Frank assuring him that "Congress intended that the decimation of the domestic stocks be terminated and that depleted stocks be given time to rebuild." Forsythe went on to state: "It is for this reason that we are gravely concerned about the 1978 regulations for the Atlantic mackerel fishery. This fishery, in its present condition, is precisely the type of fishery Congress intended to provide with full protection while the stock is rebuilt to its former levels. Unless immediate steps are taken to conserve this resource, its long-term viability may be placed in serious jeopardy."

Forsythe then outlined the problem as follows: "Between 1962 and 1969 the stock of Atlantic mackerel increased from 600,000 tons to 2.4 million tons. Under relentless foreign pressure, the stock has steadily declined until at the start of 1977 it was estimated to be only 524,000 tons. Spawning stock biomass increased from about 500,000 tons in 1962-1967 to 1.8 million tons in 1970-1972, and then plummeted to 402,000 tons at the end of 1977. The current stock is so depleted that any substantial harvest could have disastrous repercussions. The current spawning stock is just fifty-four percent of the level needed to support a harvest of 210,000 tons per year, which the Woods Hole Institute believes is the maximum sustainable yield of Atlantic mackerel.

A harvest in 1978 of 23,500 tons is the maximum which can be allowed without further depleting this crippled stock. Obviously, immediate steps must be taken to protect and conserve our Atlantic mackerel. The Mid-Atlantic Regional Fishery Council recognized this need in preparing its fishery management plan for mackerel. The Council recommended that the foreign catch, exclusive of Canada, be entirely curtailed. The Canadian and U.S. catch would be limited to just 23,000 metric tons. The optimum yield, exclusive of Canada's harvest, would be 14,000 tons, to be apportioned among U.S. commercial and recreational interests. This recommendation was originally endorsed by the Northeast Regional Office of the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Tragically, the amendments proposed by NMFS to the PMP for Atlantic mackerel would cause further depletion of a stock urgently needing protection. The quotas proposed by NMFS for 1978 would allow 19,000 tons to be taken by domestic interests, potentially 10,000 tons by Canadian fishermen, and, most surprisingly, 34,000 tons by other foreign nations. This harvest level would lead to a 10.4% decrease in the spawning stock of Atlantic mackerel.

Clearly, the actions under consideration by NMFS are inconsistent with the intent of the Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Rather than protecting a valuable but threatened stock, NMFS appears to be intent on sanctioning continued decimation, largely due to foreign fishing activities. Consequently, I urge you to reverse NMFS' proposed action and to endorse the recommendations of the Mid-Atlantic Council. Ignoring the clearly stated purpose of the Fishery Conservation and Management Act by allowing additional depletion of U.S. stocks by foreign fishermen would be a very ominous precedent to set in the first full year of the Act's implementation."

It's strong support such as this that provides us with our only real hope of changing the course of the bureaucracy once it's set. Despite all the protest of the foreign quotas in the original PMP's last year, not one change was made. The final decision on this PMP should have been made a week before this column was written. Probably because of the Congressional pressure, it's still up in the air. Keep this in mind the next time you go to the polls!

By the way, the co-signers of Congressman Lent's letter to NOAA were Representatives Emery (Maine), Bauman (Maryland), Mikulski (Maryland), Murphy (N.Y.), Studds (Mass.), Biaggi (N.Y.), and Trible (Va.).

Hearings on Mackerel and Squid Management Plans Coming Up Shortly

Your chance to comment on the Mid-Atlantic Council's proposed fishery management plans for mackerel and squid will be coming up shortly. New Yorkers can attend the December 12 meeting at the Cooperative Extension Building, 246 Griffing Ave., Riverhead, N.Y., or join the north Jersey crowd on December 14 at the Molly Pitcher Inn, 88 Riverside Ave., Red Bank, New Jersey. South Jersey anglers should head for the Cape May Courthouse on December 9. All meetings start at 7:00 p.m., and adjourn at 10:00 p.m. If you wish to submit a written statement, it will be welcomed. However, everyone will be allowed to have their say and I hope the crowds will indicate the interest of the sportsmen of this region in preserving our fisheries. Put this on your calendar—I'll be looking forward to seeing you there!

The Mackerel Fishery Management Plan

The upcoming public hearings sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council will determine public reaction to the proposed fishery management plans for mackerel and squid. This is the first time the Council will be holding hearings on plans of its own that concern the angling public. The only plan the Council has completed up to this point is that for surf clams and ocean quohogs—hardly a vital subject for the average sport fisherman. The other public hearings which have been held in the area during the past twelve months have involved preliminary management plans prepared by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The PMPs regulate the foreign fishery until an FMP is prepared and accepted. Some of the hearings held up to this point have not been well attended due to lack of proper publicity by NMFS. For its first hearings directly impacting the anglers of the region, the Mid-Atlantic Council is advertising and promoting extensively. Hopefully, the turnout will justify the time and expense involved.

Summaries of the plans will be available at the door, but a brief summary prior to the meeting should make everything a little clearer. The

mackerel FMP is 144-pages long and tells you everything you ever wanted to know about that species, plus a great deal more. Indeed, much of the plan consists of "Boiler plate"—standard information that must go into each of the plans.

In preparing the plan, the Council first came up with a set of objectives. These are:

1. To provide the opportunity for increased recreational and commercial catch.

2. To maximize the contribution of recreational fishing for Atlantic mackerel to the national economy.

3. To maintain spawning stock size above the point where optimum sustained yield of the fishery is assured.

4. To direct the commercial fishery to maximize yield per recruit.

5. To achieve efficient allocation of capital and labor in the mackerel fishery.

6. To minimize the costs to taxpayers of development, research, management and enforcement in achieving these objectives.

In order to achieve these objectives, the following measures were decided upon:

1. Restrict U.S. mackerel landings to 14,000 metric tons in 1978, allocating 7,000 tons each to the commercial and recreational fisheries. Since much of the mackerel catch is taken within the territorial sea (three miles) where the Council lacks jurisdiction, the catch in the fishery conservation zone (3-200 miles) was set at 5,000 tons commercial and 3,500 tons sport. There's also a re-evaluation provision in July, but it will probably be very difficult to keep track of this fishery during the first year of domestic regulation. Certainly, there will be no accurate statistics for the sport catch. The allocations provided were much higher than the recent catches. For instance, during the past couple of years the recreational catch has been estimated to be around 5,000 metric tons. The commercial catch in 1976 was 2,710 metric tons—quite a bit higher than in recent years, but still well below the 7,000 tons available next year. The idea of keeping the commercial catch allocation low is to prevent the advent of a large domestic fishery (probably for export) until the stock recovers. My personal feeling was that the allocation should be even lower (4,000 metric tons) in order to preclude a new large winter fishery which would close the season before the commercial fishermen who normally benefit from this fishery in inshore waters get a shot at it. There is one American concern that would like to take 30,000 tons of mackerel for export to Africa. That's exactly what we'd like to prevent at this time. In any case, as far as the sportsman is concerned, the recreational allocation is of little consequence and the season will surely be open to anglers on a year-round basis.

2. Commercial fishing vessels will be prohibited from taking mackerel less than ten inches in the FC unless they constitute less than ten percent of the total mackerel catch on board. This is a very minimal attempt to prevent taking of immature and virtually worthless mackerel. Foreign capture of tiny mackerel probably led to the present sad state of affairs. ICNAF finally instituted the ten inch length limit in 1976. Most anglers aren't aware that there is a seven inch limit on mackerel in the States of New Jersey, New York, and Connecticut.

3. Restrict the foreign by-catch of mackerel to 1,200 metric tons. If that figure is reached, foreign fleets must stop fishing in the FCZ.

4. That all vessels fishing for mackerel, either directly or as a by-catch from other fisheries, be licensed. This provision applies to party and charter boats, but not to private boats. Though some operators are already griping about such requirements, the paperwork involved will be minimal. The same license applicable to the already regulated cod fishery will do for mackerel. While no one likes to get involved with paperwork, the fact of the matter is that the Councils need proper information before they can move forward in managing the fisheries. We can't very well expect such information from commercial fishermen and not be willing to provide it ourselves. In fact, it's to our advantage that accurate sport catch data be provided. This is the only way to prove the importance of the fishery and get adequate allocations.

5. Operators of licensed vessels must file monthly catch reports. The same applies to dealers and processors.

The disastrous situation that faces the mackerel fishery has been detailed in previous columns. Much of the material presented in the plan provides statistical documentation of that condition. Spawning stock levels are the lowest recorded. Though there is no definite relationship between spawning stock size and good year classes, it can properly be assumed that at some level the chances of getting a good year class will practically disappear. The only safe action is to restrict the catch so as to prevent any further reduction of the spawning stock. That is why we've eliminated directed foreign fishing and put constraints on the domestic fishery. It should be kept in mind that while this FMP will supersede the proposed PMP, the FMP won't be ready for the Secretary of Commerce until late February. Until that time the PMP will control the foreign fishery. That's why we're working so hard to stop the 34,000 metric ton allocation in that plan. The foreigners will wipe most of that allocation up in the first two months of the year and make our restrictions on the domestic catch meaningless.

As things are now, a complete cessation of all mackerel fishing would lead to only a six percent increase in the spawning stock. The restrictions in the FMP will merely serve to stabilize the spawning stock at its present low level. In view of the fact that the 1976 year class was an almost total failure, the outlook for the future is dim. Nevertheless, if the foreign fishery on the edge of the Continental Shelf during the winter is stopped, anglers should benefit from more compact schools arriving in inshore water during the spring. In 1970, the mackerel was the number two fish in poundage taken by anglers in the Mid-Atlantic region (bluefish were num-

(Continued on page 22.)

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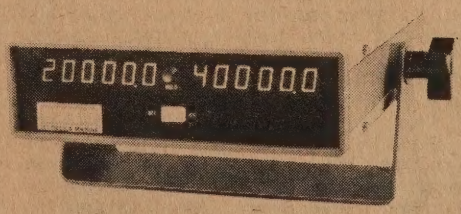

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To an outsider they had to be a strange looking crew—a real wild-eyed lot. Unshaven, with three and four day growths, bags under bloodshot eyes, wrinkled clothing, and a bit dirty around the edges, they appeared to be the dregs of humanity.

They were surf fishermen. Not just the ordinary type: these were "regulars," seasoned veterans of the white water, and in this particular group there were several who qualified as "sharpshooters." There were seven or eight individuals, and their beach vehicles in like number, were parked side-by-side in an arc conforming to the contours of the beach at Moontalk's, Mad Bar. Contrary to appearance, they were a relatively harmless, sociable group, as evidenced by their frequent conversation, good natured horseplay and sharing of worldly goods.

For them, this particular October afternoon followed a night long effort of plugging for striped bass and bluefish. A chilling temperature, rough surf, and strong currents had not discouraged this hardy crew from struggling far out on the bars, rocks, and reefs in their quest for fish. Because of the late hour of the tide, it was not until daybreak that most had yielded to exhaustion and thoughts of a warm bed.

Following several hours of sleep, a hearty breakfast, and an exchange of information, experiences, and an appraisal of the night's efforts, each turned to the task of preparing for another evening of fishing. Lines were checked, knots retied, leaky waders patched, wet suits and clothing hung to dry, reels carefully lubricated, hooks sharpened or replaced, and a host of ritualistic chores performed.

Collectively they had fished at over a half-dozen different spots during the night. While the resultant catch had been very disappointing, only "Hungry Harold" persisted in complaining. Following a poor night, it was characteristic of Harold to moan over the fact that he'd been unable to sell enough fish to meet expenses. He was a greedy man, measuring the rewards of the sport only in terms of pounds killed and monetary gain. If Harold happened to catch a load of bluefish, he'd complain about the fact that they weren't striped bass, whose market value was much higher.

All of the regulars were close-mouthed, especially after a good night of fishing. But if conditions at the scene of their conquest were such that the presence of others would not interfere with their fishing on the following night, the secret would usually be shared with a selected few. But Hungry Harold was the exception. He never shared, though he always sought information from others.

No one could recall ever having seen him release a fish, and it was known that he had no qualms about keeping short bass. When conditions permitted, he fished with heavy tackle and a tight drag, thereby enabling him to horse the fish in. To his warped way of thinking it was a waste of time and money to play a fish. Hungry Harold was everything that a sportsman is not. While a few of the others—on rare occasions—sold an excess catch, it was not their practice or original intent to do so. Few of them respected Harold or ever sought his company, and when they were together, it was only due to coincidence. Harold's presence was tolerated, but he was largely ignored.

It was "Normal Norman" who called attention to the 'tourist" who had been casting at True Bar, and who was now trudging towards them. Welcoming a brief diversion from their chores, several of the group paused to study the approaching stranger. He was young and judging by the gear that he carried, it was obvious that he was a beginner.

Upon reaching them he stopped, and after silently admiring their beach vehicles, he timidly inquired as to whether they'd had any luck and asked where he might expect to catch some fish? "Moe The Pro" responded to the first part of the question with a firm but honest, "No," while a smirking Hungry Harold, after whispering to Normal Norman, quickly assured the stranger that if he wanted action, he was headed in the right direction. "Yes sir, your very best chance is the far side of Clock's Cove. See down there where the rocks and the high bluff start? That's the spot, loaded with the biggest, meanest kind of blues. I'd be there myself, but I had my fill of those cannibals yesterday. Wore out me and my tackle. Use tins, that's what they're hitting." Motioning to a rod that he had in a sand spike, Harold said, "I'm hopin' for a flounder or two, rather than go down there and bust up more tackle." Obviously believing and eager to follow Harold's advice, the "tourist" thanked him and headed into the big cove.

Moe, Norman and "Strange Stanley" wasted no time in making it clear to Harold that they did not approve of his deliberately giving the kid such a bum steer. "Hell," said Moe, "you know damned well that it's been dead in the Cove. The bottom fishermen can't even lose their bait. Building up the kid's hopes so much and telling him to use tins, which you know he'll lose in the rocks, wasn't necessary. I don't blame you for steering him away from the spots that you plan to fish, any one of us would have done that; but that kid's a beginner, he could use some halfway decent advice—not complete lies."

"Yeah," said Normal Norman, "you could have sent him back beyond Bergall Rock, to Spots, The Beacon, or into Alligator Cove. There hasn't been much action up front, but at least he'd have a chance of pickin' a fish. Large Arthur, Stan, and me fished Vodka Beach, Gagwong, and the Skipping Rocks last night and we didn't even see bait." Both Moe and Strange Stanley reminded Hungry Harold of his first days on Moontalk's beaches a dozen years ago, and how he haunted them for advice, which they gladly gave him.

Harold didn't like their comments, but he hesitated to argue knowing that none of the other "regulars" would side with him. Harold's only comment was, "If you guys don't like it, you can all go to hell." Strange Stanley, who no one crossed, looked squarely into Harold's eyes and said, "Hungry, you stink."

It was nearly dark and while some of the regulars were catching a few winks before the tide turned, Harold, Moe and "Fish Face Louie" were still moving about when the kid came back. Spotting Hungry Harold—who had tried to hide—he stopped and thanked him for his good advice. Though he'd not been able to beach a fish, and saw no bluefish, he insisted that he had dropped two big stripers and seen an acre of them rolling just off the beach. After repeatedly thanking Harold, he continued on his way.

Hungry Harold wasted no time in going over to Moe and saying, "Did you hear the garbage that hoople fed me? You guys had a hell of a nerve chewin' me out before." Chuckling a bit, Moe said, "Apparently the kid caught on to the fact that you snowed him, and he returned the favor. Then, too, maybe he was telling the truth?"

Ignoring Moe's observation, Harold said, "I'm really glad that I gave him a bum steer....that smart aleck kid lied to me. That just proves that I did right and you guys were wrong."

Moe continued, "By the way Harold, while I was beachcombing this afternoon, Squid Breath Sal drove by and told me he did a number on schoolies last night. Said he worked the Mouse Hole at Queens Point." As Harold climbed into his buggy to leave, Moe asked, "Where you planning to fish tonight." Harold replied, "Don't know, might try the south side, east of Trench Plains; work Bungalow Point, Frisboes, Moogans; might even walk into the Peanuts. See you around Moe."

As Moe turned to go back to his vehicle, Louie, who had been silent till now, wondered aloud whether Harold was really going to fish where he said. "Heck no," said Moe, "you ever see him pass up a chance at getting some prime market-sized bass? He's headed for the Mouse Hole, sure as God made little apples." Louie asked, "You planning to fish there tonight?" To which Moe responded with a quick, "Nope." After a slight pause, Louie hesitatingly asked, "Did ...you...pull Harold's leg when you told him about Squid Breath gettin' those bass?" Moe assured him that he had not, and guessing at Lou's reason for asking, said, "I'm fishing right here tonight; let's just say I've got a hunch that the rip is going to produce."

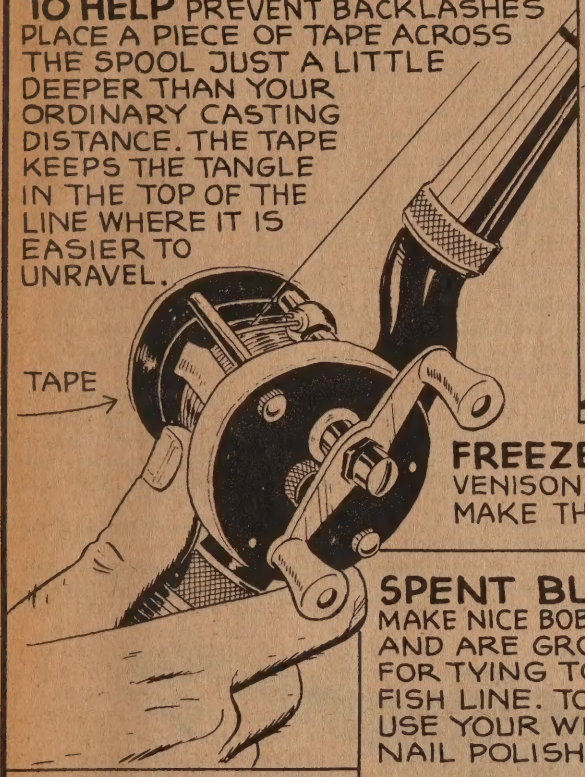
While Lou was a hard fisherman and usually caught his share, he wasn't very sharp, but he knew that Moe was and admired him for his ability to "read the water," and catch more and bigger fish than most. Since Moe's hunches usually

(Continued on page 10.)

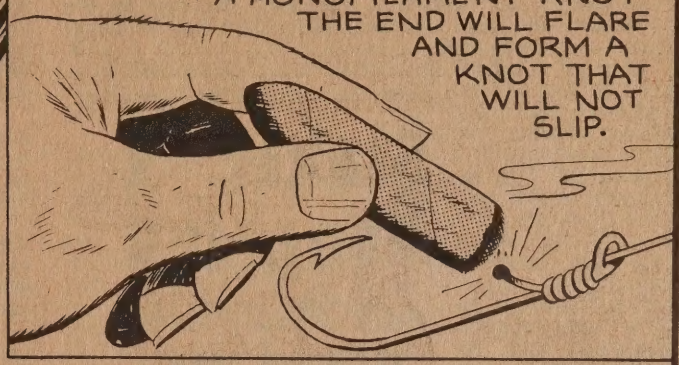
FISHERMAN TIPS

BY FRED GUARDINEER

TO HELP PREVENT BACKLASHES PLACE A PIECE OF TAPE ACROSS THE SPOOL JUST A LITTLE DEEPER THAN YOUR ORDINARY CASTING DISTANCE. THE TAPE KEEPS THE TANGLE IN THE TOP OF THE LINE WHERE IT IS EASIER TO UNRAVEL.

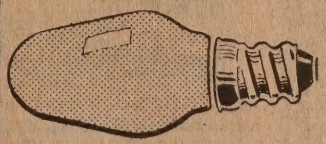


IF YOU TOUCH YOUR LIGHTED CIGAR OR CIGARETTE TO THE LOOSE END OF A MONOFILAMENT KNOT THE END WILL FLARE AND FORM A KNOT THAT WILL NOT SLIP.



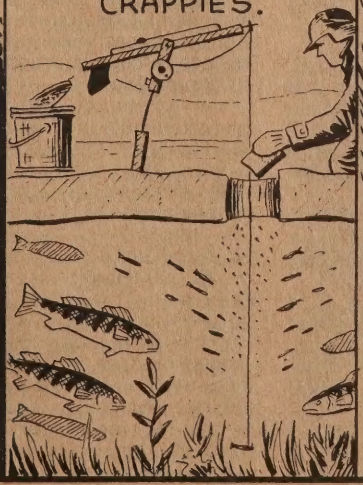
FREEZER BURN ON THOSE MOUTH WATERING VENISON STEAKS YOU CACHE IN YOUR FREEZER WILL MAKE THEM DRY AND FLAVORLESS. TO PREVENT IT WRAP TIGHTLY TO KEEP OUT *ALL* AIR. A THIN COAT OF ICE ON THE STEAKS BEFORE WRAPPING WILL MAKE SURE.

SPENT BULBS MAKE NICE BOBBERS AND ARE GROOVED FOR TYING TO THE FISH LINE. TO COLOR USE YOUR WIFE'S NAIL POLISH.



MINNOW PAILS FREEZE WHEN WINTER ICE FISHING, BUT A PINT BOTTLE DOES'NT IF IT IS SLIPPED INTO YOUR POCKET. BOTTLE HOLDS A DOZEN OR 20 MINNOWS OR KILLIES.

SPRINKLE OATMEAL THROUGH THE ICE WHEN FISHING FOR PANFISH. THE OATMEAL DRAWS MINNOWS WHICH IN TURN ATTRACT PERCH AND CRAPPIES.



WHEN APPROACHING A FRESHLY SHOT ANIMAL SUCH AS A DEER OR BEAR BE CAUTIOUS IF THE EYES ARE CLOSED. IT COULD BE FAKING DEATH...

...OPEN GLASSY EYES MEAN IT HAS EXPIRED.

Sinker Bouncing

with Matt Ahern

TERMINAL TACKLE

Picture two hypothetical sinker bouncers, both fishing the same general area, perhaps within sight of each other, each in the process of rigging up. One dips into his tackle bag and painstakingly selects the correct hook, the proper sinker, and whatever hardware may be necessary. He carefully places these items on the main line.

The other—with no thought of right or wrong—selects the terminal gear he hopes will do the job and adds it to the main line. Now, without peeking at the back of the book for the correct answer, which of these two anglers has the better chance of catching fish?

Foolish question? Of course. But to get serious for a moment: do you know how many fishermen actually consider terminal tackle of little importance? From my own experience, I'd say far too many. If you doubt this, look about you someday and check the guys getting the action. If those "lucky" fishermen aren't rigged in similar fashion, I'll quit the game here and now. I suppose it's none of my business, but I become annoyed when I spot fishermen rigged improperly. The first thing that pops into my mind is: "Damn, feller, if you have doubts—and you must have—why don't you check with other fishermen for the necessary information?" I just can't figure any novice's reluctance to seek aid when it's so readily available.

But maybe I am out of line when I say that, because I remember a fisherman I once knew in the long ago who was exactly like that. Not only did this guy know from nothing about the fishing game, I happened to know him well enough to know he was a stubborn cuss, which is certainly no asset to anyone—let alone a beginning fisherman.

I recall a party boat fluke trip with this guy which illustrates my point. I knew that not only had this fellow never caught a fluke before, he had never seen one until that day. Because of this, you'd think he would have asked someone at the rail for specific information, but not this boy. He just tied on an old beat-up, tarred-snell ling hook and began fishing. I guess he was too dumb to notice all those other fishermen using three-foot gut leaders.

It was one of those good fishing days and the action was hot, but our boy was just a disgruntled spectator until the skipper noticed his plight. He gave this foolish fisherman the required leader and it wasn't long before our foolish friend had fluke flopping in the tub.

How do I know so much of what went on that day? Easy. That foolish fisherman was me. But from that moment on, you can bet I took a great deal of interest in terminal tackle. I also deep-sixed my childish stubbornness, nevermore to return.

Let me say now that there is absolutely no terminal tackle item that isn't important, and you may be sure smart fishermen give it more than passing interest.

For instance, the fishhook.

To a great many sinker bouncers, a hook is a hook, period. In their new-found zeal for the game, they fail to realize that whatever else is used to put fish in the bucket, it is only an aid to get that thin, curved bit of tempered steel inside the fish's mouth. The rod and reel that set them back a good day's pay won't do it, nor will the most expensive fishing machine on the market—but that ten cent hook will!

Remember, there is a hook designed specifically for the fish in which you have an interest. It therefore behooves fishermen who wish to excel at the sport to take an abiding nterest in fishhooks.

With winter now breathing down our necks, it's a good dea to send out a few post cards requesting catalogs from mail rder houses that offer fishhooks for the sport fisherman. 'ou'll also find other terminal tackle listed in most of these, hereby killing two birds with one stone. Fishermen should ake advantage of the slow season and do it now.

We come next to the lowly sinker.

I've noticed that those fellows who haven't much interest n fishhooks seem also to feel the same way about sinkers. But if one sinker—like the fishhook—sufficed for all fishing, there would not be so many varieties available. Each is designed to do a special job, although with but minor exceptions; as, for instance, when surf fishing, proper sinker selection isn't as crucial as with fishhooks.

But still, proper sinkers do help to catch fish. For instance, when codfishing with bait, it is always best to fish a deadline. Therefore, using a sinker that rolls and moves off with the current is definitely a poor choice.

Barrel swivels and sinker snaps have their place, too, depending upon the kind of fishing being done. Bear in mind, however, the bottom fisherman's adage: the less hardware, the better. If you can do away with hardware, do it.

If you must use gadgets such as barrel swivels, keep in mind the kind of fishing expected. When mackerel fishing, for instance, make sure all gadgets are a dull color. Mackerel love to hit these shiny objects which, of course, is always disappointing to both the fish and the fisherman.

Three-way swivels certainly have their place in the fisherman's tackle bag. They make bottom fishing much easier by helping to prevent line twist; but don't use them around wrecks and obstruction-littered areas. They foul too easily.

One of the bug-bears fishermen have is knowing how to tie the correct knot when attaching hooks to the main line. But if you use a "Quick-Rig," there is no problem. With them you can move hooks up and down without leaving behind potential tackle-fouling loops. Don't overlook the "Quick-Rig."

Yes, sir, as the man says: there's more to terminal tackle than meets the eye.

How to snell hooks has always been of special interest to sinker bouncers, so next week's column will go into this in detail.

SurfSide: Moontalk's Regulars

(Continued from page 8.)

paid off, he decided to pass up the Mouse Hole and stay put.

Several hours later, Lou and Moe happened to struggle out of the water at the same time, each beaching a bass in the thirties. "Gosh Moe, that's my sixth fish, and all in the teens or better. Stan is doin' even better—he's got four on his stringer and released at least that many. I've got to hand it to you, this spot's been dead all fall, yet you called it. If I hadn't listened to you I would be fishing with Harold and Sal...hopin' for a few rats. How did you figure this out?"

"Lou, that kid wasn't lying to Harold. When I went into Clock's Cove lookin' for plugs, there were loads of snappers tight-on the beach and big fish were finning and swirling all over the place, about two casts out. Evidently, they weren't feeding. The fish seemed to be milling about, waiting for those snappers to move into deeper water.

It didn't take much thinking to figure out that if the snappers moved, they'd do so on the dropping tide, goin' over the Bar and through the rip. What's more, since that seemed to be the only bait around, it was a good bet that the bass would stay in the area waiting for them to make their move."

"Then you did snow Harold?" Lou asked. "No, Sal worked his butt off for four or five rats and dropped a couple. What I did do was not back up a story that Harold refused to believe. If he doesn't get a box full of fish tonight, he'll moan for a week. It won't teach him a lesson—he's too thickheaded for that—but the meat-fishing s.o.b. got what he deserved. I guess you could say that his lying boomeranged on him."

INSHORE FISHING

with Scott J. Simons

ADVANCED CODFISHING

★ Part Two ★

As with virtually every type of fishing, the first step in codfishing is to locate fish to catch. If there isn't a cod within a few miles of your baited hook I don't care how great you apply the other methods and techniques—you just aren't going to catch. The locating of cod is actually much harder than it is for most other species. Unlike the bass, blue and weakfish, cod never feed near the surface, so it is impossible to find them visually. Cod have a habit of moving around a lot, which doesn't help matters any. Let's compare it to porgy fishing for a moment. If I put down a chum pot packed with clam bellies and didn't get a fish in ten minutes, I'd move—but it is very common to chum for an hour or more for cod and go fishless, then suddenly have a short blitz. So the answer doesn't lie in moving the boat to new spots all day. And unlike the blackfish, which are extremely territorial, cod don't remain in one spot—they are almost constantly on the move! The trick is to know how long to stick it out in one spot. I wish I had a magic formula for you, but I don't. The "feel" of knowing when to move only comes with experience, and being familiar with the bottom and habits of the cod in your area. Your best bet is to do your fishing on an open boat that has a good reputation for codfishing and let the captain do the fish locating chores for you. But we'll talk about open boat fishing for cod in depth next week.

So where **should** you be looking for cod? On your graph recorder, naturally. By the way, if you aren't using a recorder, you aren't codfishing! It doesn't have to be elaborate, a simple curve-line will do nicely. You can get away with a flasher if you have to, but try not to have to. Bottom formations are the name of the game! Look for little rock piles, reefs, shoals, etc. Virtually any rise can hold fish. A wreck is like an oasis in the desert, but unless you have the electronic equipment and knowledge of their location, forget about them. Look for the changes in depth; e.g., when the depth is a uniform eighty feet for a distance, then drops to a uniform depth of eighty-five feet. Cod often use the slopes of these depth changes like highways, traveling along them in search of food. You should anchor up with a chum pot directly over one of these depth changes so that your bottom rigs are right on the slope. Also look for troughs like the "Fire Island Fingers" Doc Grell discusses in his article this week. Cod also use these as migration routes.

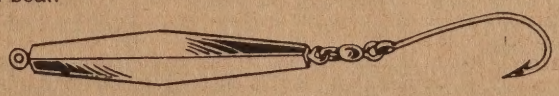
Finding cod on open bottom can be like looking for a needle in a haystack. Would you honestly look for a needle in a haystack? Of course not! You have to let the fish find you. Don't forget, the cod are never just sitting stationary in one spot—they are constantly on the move chasing baitfish or foraging for shellfish, crabs, lobsters, etc. One of the many things I learned on my set-lining adventure with Capt. Dick Vigilant of the Triton II ("Set-lining for Cod," L.I.F. Volume 12, No. 43, November 10, 1977) was how cod move in small pods over the open bottom. The set-line of several hundred hooks was set cross-current to intercept fish on the move. When the line was brought in, it had caught the fish at intervals like this: ten hooks with the bait still on, then the next five hooks with three cod and two bare hooks, then ten or twenty baited hooks, followed by four or five cod close together, etc. In almost every case there was a group of fish followed by a stretch of baited hooks untouched. You could actually picture a small pod of cod swimming down-current and coming across this picket line of skimmer clams!

Now I don't mean to say that you should just anchor up over any old stretch of flat bottom—use your noodle a little. First off, there's no such thing as an absolutely "flat" bottom. Even the flattest of bottoms will have depth variances of one to three feet, and you'd be surprised how productive such a small depression can be at times. The reason is simple: very often a shallow depression will have a different bottom composition than the surrounding area. By bottom composition I mean what the bottom is actually made of: sand, gravel,mud, rocks, shale, clays, shells, tapioca, etc. Different types of bottom sustain different types of sea life, so a small depression containing say a mud bottom which is surrounded by a gravel bottom may look to a cod like a vegetable garden in a desert. Depending on the bottom composition, the garden could be growing mussels, skimmer clams, sea scallops, crabs and lobster, conch, or Rocky Mountain oysters. (This "garden" feature of a depression is also good information for flounder fishing. A small depression in shallow bay waters has a tendency to fill with fine silt (mud) over a period of time, which attracts shellfish and crustaceans that flounder feast on. I know one fisherman who takes a careful look at the location of where any dredging is done, creating depressions that will fill with silt and be a potential flounder hotspot in a year or so.)

Now that you know how to find the fish, what type of tackle should you use? In my opinion, many anglers go overboard in this department. Remember, you're supposed to catch cod and have fun doing it, not beat them up with a broomstick and winch, all bleary-eyed and mumbling "kill, kill!" But many will say "But you have to use a real meat-stick and winch in case you hook into a sixty-pounder." Poppycock, I say, poppycock. When was the last time you even **saw**, much less caught, a sixty-pound cod? Let's face it fellas, ninety-five percent of the cod we catch in Long Island waters are in the ten to thirty pound class, so let's match the tackle accordingly. Okay, so maybe you **will** have a real battle on your hands if you luck into a fifty or sixty pound fish, but you're **supposed** to have a challenge with a big fish! I recommend either a 3/0 112 or 4/0 113 Penn Senator. The high speed models (112H and 113H) are helpful in getting your rigs up quickly from deep water, but you pay for it when you get a nice fish on and can't put as much pressure on him. Whatever the choice of reels is, match it with a 7 or 7½ foot rod with a fast taper—a relatively light tip with backbone where you need it.

Don't go overboard with the strength of the line you use, either! Thirty-pound test line can anchor a small boat, and is more than sufficient for any cod you'll latch onto. Using heavier lines of forty, fifty or sixty-pound test is actually a liability when fishing in deep water—you'll need a heavier sinker to keep your rig on the bottom. Monofilament line is good for codfishing, but when deep water fishing in depths of 100 feet or more, the amount of stretch in mono can affect your ability to feel a fish biting and the setting of the hook. You might be better off with Dacron, or the new braided monofilament (multifilament?) line "Braid King" made by Web that has a smaller diameter and much less stretch than regular mono. It appears to be perfect for codfishing, and the only place on the Island that I know of carrying this new product is the Hook, Line & Sinker Tackle Shop in Freeport. Try it.

Next week we'll wind things up with the wide variety of (and little known) baits that are effective with cod, fishing techniques and special techniques to use when fishing from an open boat.



★ MEETING NOTICES ★

SPORTFISHING COUNCIL

The next meeting of *The New York Sportfishing Council* will be held on Tuesday, December 13th at 7:30 PM at the Central School Building of the South Huntington School District, located just north of the intersection of Route 110 and Jericho Turnpike. *(Exit 49N L.I.E., Route 110 to Jericho Tpke.)*

PUBLIC HEARING ON MACKEREL PLAN

Your chance to comment on the Mid-Atlantic Council's proposed fishery management plans for mackerel and squid will be coming up shortly. New Yorker's can attend the public hearing on December 12th at the Cooperative Extension Building at 7PM, 246 Griffing Ave., Riverhead, New York.

FIRE ISLAND CODFISHING

by Doc Grell

★PART ONE★

Something You Should Know About Cod: Of all the fish you will ever pursue to their innermost hiding places in Neptune's realm off Fire Island, "Old Whiskers"—or cod—are probably the most prolific of all species. It has been estimated that a fifty pound female cod will produce from six to ten million eggs, of which only one to two percent will ever reach the hatching stage. Cod eggs are completely pelagic with the tough, cruel marine environment wreaking havoc and destruction upon them. Ma and Pa Cod do not exert any parental care to speak of. Millions are spawned, but few are chosen to survive in the battle for life. Yet this species continues to survive. Fishing for cod is a multi-million dollar industry in many countries, if not the sole source for economic survival. Cod have even caused international strife amongst nations.

Cod travel in tremendously large schools, with the exception of those which inhabit deep water wrecks throughout the year. However, the cod schools which inhabit our open bottom are minimal compared to those which inhabit the area north of Cape Cod to the Grand Banks off Newfoundland. The reasons for this difference in addition to the fact that cod love cold water should be obvious. Fire Island offshore bottom is sandy and relatively barren in contrast to the rocky, kelp-laden bottom off New England. Down here we are fishing for a migratory fish traveling over a sandy bottom. The best we can do if we want to catch cod is to establish beneath our boats our own little midden piles, so-called "wrecks in miniature," consisting of skimmer clams upon which we hope crabs will feast and, in turn, Old Whiskers who has never been known to turn down a crab meat dinner. Actually, clams on a hook are incidental to the entire catching process. It is only when the cod have dispensed with eating the crabs who are eating your crushed clams will you really begin to catch cod on your hooked clams hanging a couple of feet over the clam "wreck." Divers have witnessed this process many times. If you don't believe me, try catching cod with unopened or uncrushed clams. If you really want to see what is happening beneath your boat put on a scuba outfit, dive down and quietly sit on your crushed bushel of clams and observe. If you witness a cod eating a whole uncracked clam, you are suffering from "raptures of the deep." If you find a whole clam in a fresh caught cod's stomach, you have glaucoma in your eyes.

Fire Island cod come inshore from deeper waters offshore when water temperatures reach the low fifties (Fahrenheit) and upper forties. Cod have a wide living range throughout the entire lighted zone in the ocean ranging in depths from 1500 feet to right on "top of the beach." I have caught them off Fire Island in as little as twenty-five feet of water. It is doubtful that the cod which we catch here migrate down from the Cape Cod area.

Cod are exceedingly voracious and feed on all types of small fish and invertebrates. Crabs are probably their greatest delicacy since cod are primarily bottom feeders and a little lazy when it comes to chasing frisky bergalls, squid, herring, blackfish, and whiting—all of which are good bait by the way. However, if a cod can munch on crabs he will do so and conserve his energy for more productive behavior—possibly making babies. Don't misunderstand me, I am not saying that cod cannot be frisky and fast when they want to be. I have trolled them at Montauk while striper fishing and have been amazed at their fast-moving acrobatics.

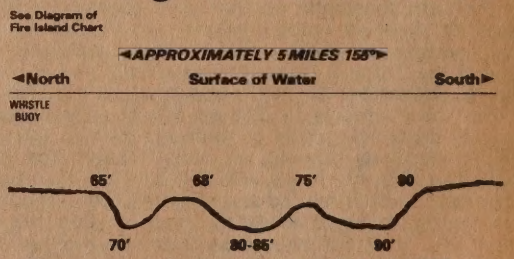
In your fishing for them, do not disregard such fresh bait (if you can get it) as conch, squid, herring, butterfish, mackerel, cunners, newly born dogfish, small flounders, small blackfish, and tinker mackerel. Cod will love any of this variety. But who is kidding who? Most of these species will be tough to get for the most part, and I strongly recommend that you stay away from using frozen hunks, chunks, and strips of any of these species for bait. If you are like most of us you will have all you can do to get fresh skimmer clams. Remember here that crushed pieces of clams attract crabs which cod eat...the chum... Hanging hooked clams over your pile of cracked clams (under your boat at all costs) does the catching...the bait. Remember, it takes "two to tango."

Cod range in size from a couple of pounds to those of two hundred pounds which have been taken off the Maine and New Hampshire Coasts. Off Fire Island, we catch many between five and twenty-five pounds. A common weight is twenty-five pounds. Rarely, cod will be taken in the sixty to seventy pound class. Cod in the thirty to sixty pound class are considered large and become quite famous upon dying by winning pools and local fishing contests. Cod in the five to fifteen pound class are a gourmet's delight. Fish eaters say their flesh is more tender and not so rubbery. I have fished for cod off Fire Island for the past twenty-five years. My largest was forty-five pounds. It was considered a monster by my fishing buddies. Off the New Hampshire Coast, I have caught them as heavy as eighty-five pounds with my Portsmouth, N.H. friends remarking "they come a lot bigger." Where you fish for them does determine size: don't let anyone kid you.

Where They Can Be Found Off Fire Island (See Chart and Diagram): Excluding wrecks where cod can be found throughout the year, the cod I am talking about can be found over any piece of open bottom between forty and one hundred twenty-five feet of water. If you possess a depth finder, look for ridges and holes on open bottom. Spend a little time observing your recorder before you set your anchor. I have found the more rugged and ragged my bottom markings are, the better the codfishing has been. Look for markings of fish in holes and on the sides of downward folds on the ridges. Whether these markings are cod or dogfish or both will be rapidly determined when you immerse your baited hooks.

Off Fire Island the bottom very gradually becomes deeper and as you progress on a southerly or southeasterly course you will quickly discover on your depth recorder that between sixty-five and one hundred feet, the bottom is more or less divided into three depressions or ridges which run parallel to shore. Locals refer to these ridges and depressions as the "fingers" or dropoffs.

The "Fingers" Off Fire Island



The first depression you come across on a 155° course is that of 70'; the second that of 80-85', and the third of 90'. Try to fish in these depressions or holes. Even the sides of these depressions will produce fish. On one day you will catch fish in the 70' depression. On another day, fish can be taken from the 90' hole. Some days, you will catch fish in all three of these so-called "fingers." Any move that you make should be focused upon these holes for maximum catch. Allow yourself a minimum of at least two stops or moves if you are not successful in catching cod over a two-and-a-half hour period of time. Be **patient**. Chum heavily at the outset—at least a half bushel of crushed clams beneath your boat. Oftentimes you

will catch several cod immediately and then nothing, only to find later that you will catch several more. If you have this kind of luck within a two-and-a-half hour period, it is wise to remain where you are. Remember, you are not fishing off Newfoundland where there are thousands of cod below you. At best, in this area you will probably have no more than a couple of dozen cod eating from your clam pile during the entire day. Often you will have no more than a dozen below you. More often only one or two. Remember the migratory schools traveling over Fire Island bottoms are small at best. When they are below your boat, give them your best efforts and skills. The big decision you will always have to make is whether you remain at a given spot or move to another location. If you are catching fish you really have no decision to make. Most of the time you will have to decide. Critical factors in decision-making involve the amount of clams you have brought along. Never go without at least two bushels; three bushels is the right amount. Clam consumption probably breaks down into two bushels for chum and one bushel for bait. If dogfish are around it will be three bushels for bait...that is if they are "thicker than flies."

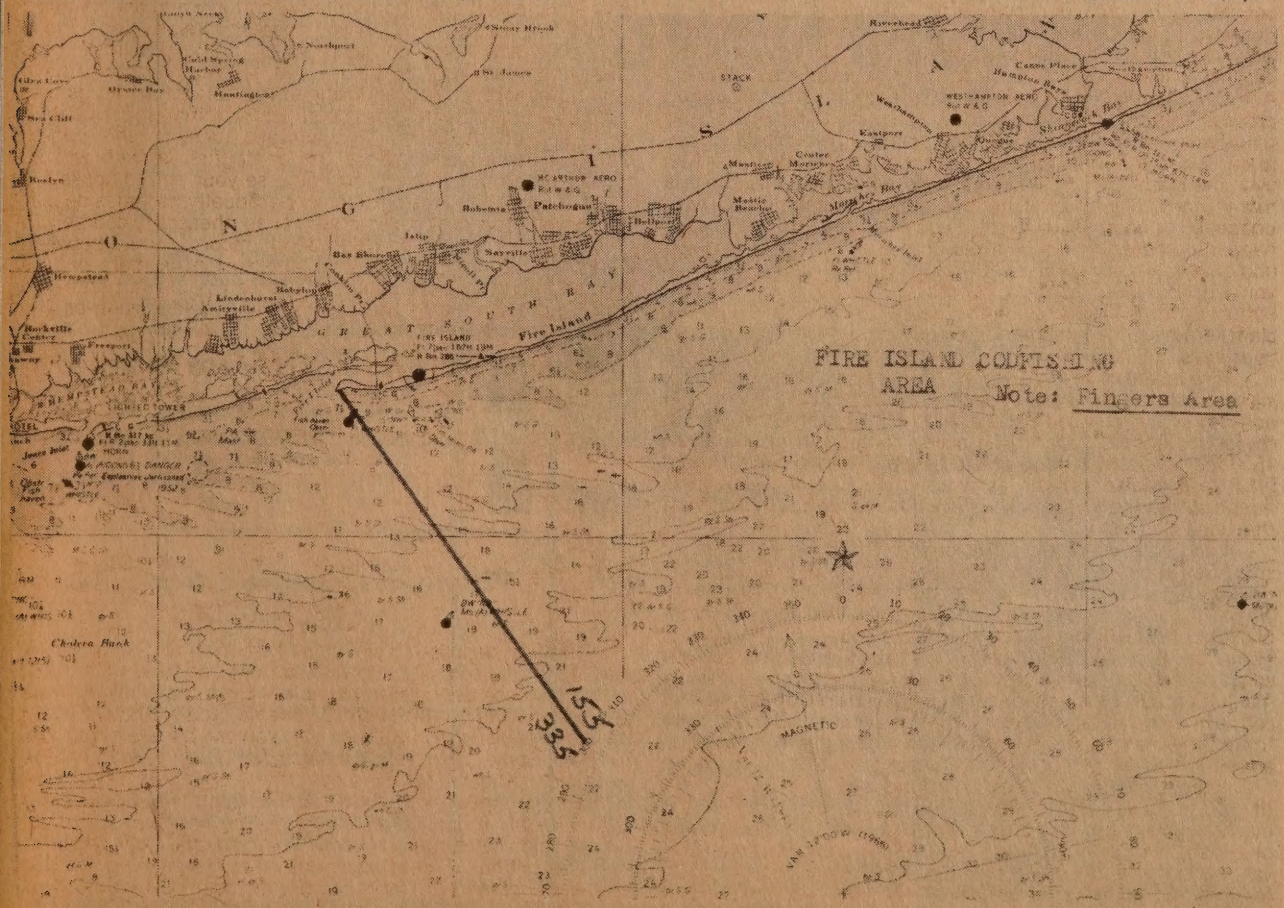
My rule of thumb. If I catch two or three cod within a two-and-a-half hour period, I stay at the same spot. If I catch only one, I move. The most important factor here is that you chum heavily at the outset within the limits of one bushel and the time period. Give your clams the opportunity to work and see what happens. Fish each location with gusto and "give it a good shot." If nothing happens—move. **Do not go codfishing** with one bushel of clams and expect good results. You need a greater commitment to codfishing than a one bushel donation. The most important point to remember is that you are going to establish beneath your boat a little "wreck" with crushed clams. Two or three clams do not make up a "wreck." You want to attract crabs and cod. Empty shells without meat on them when dumped, for the most part, are worthless. Watch your purchases of skimmers. Are they "shelled down?"

On super days, I have taken forty cod in these depressions or holes. On extremely poor days I have caught one or two. If the cod are in with the bottom water temperatures in the mid-forties (Fahrenheit), a good day's catch will total fifteen to twenty-five cod. A determining factor here is the temperature of water. Mid-fifties (Fahrenheit) are dogfish breeding temperatures; amounts you can catch will **kill you** with fatigue. You will catch double-headers until your arms "fall off." You will say "what the hell am I out here for when I could be back in bed." There is nothing you can do about this dogfish problem except stay home till bottom temperatures get colder. When you can't stick your hands into the ocean, you have arrived at prime codfishing time. If you stick your hands into the ocean to warm them, you have dogfish season. Unfortunately, off Fire Island we get water temperatures in November and December which are conducive to both species—prime time and temperature for dogfish spawning at the same time gradual cooling of waters brings in the first schools of cod. In this merging season cod are present, but just don't get to the clam bait fast enough. Possibly, the cod are eating the crabs and the doggies are eating the hooked clams. Think about it.

Tackle Employed: Rods—I employ two types of rods. Short five foot semi-stiff trolling poles which I fish close to the boat and long, seven-and-a-half feet very flexible poles for fishing away from my boat. They are custom made. The trolling rods are classified as thirty pound. My flexible long poles are of the twenty pound class. These rods are "deadsticked" from strategically located pole holders on my boat. Use of long rods and short rods keeps my terminal tackle from tangling.

My basic policy: If a small school of cod come meandering down the open bottom and chance to feast on my little clam pile why not "booby trap" as many of these whiskered potential fillets as possible. I also don't want them to hurt their head and teeth by charging one rod's terminal tackle. The only exception to the multiple rod technique is when I run into many dogfish. Needless to say, one hooked, pulsating, jumping-around horned dogfish will produce a codfish rig tangle that will defy description and make a "robin's nest" look simple by comparison. When dogfish are around it is

(Continued on next page.)



IMPERATIVE that you fish with one rod and that your buddy do likewise. Deadsticking is out.

When doggies hit, hit the drag and reel them in as fast as possible. Stun them with a club and get rid of them. Do not disembowel them, chop them up into little pieces, stab them viciously and spray blood and guts all over the ocean. You will not get rid of them. All you will do is dull your knife and get more tired than you are. When you have gotten through the dogfish problem and things appear to be settling down, you can go back to fishing with more than one rod. Let your patience in undoing tangles be your guide, remembering always if you spend all of your time undoing tangles, are you fishing and do you have any hooks in the water.

To a degree you will always have dogfish off Fire Island and it is not uncommon before you catch cod to catch several dogfish. Matter of fact, it can sometimes be a good sign since dogfish also will eat small crabs and don't codfish also eat crabs? Dogfish oftentimes tell you something good. If you eat them as grayfish, they are always good. If you don't eat them and weary yourself in catching them, they are bad. Everything being equal dogfish are important to the ecology of the sea. Don't be too hard on them and remember that a majority of them are female and pregnant. Are you, in addition to being a codfisherman, a sadistic killer?

Unfortunately, most of us have taken our boats out of the water when the most favorable water temperatures for catching cod are upon us—mid-forties Fahrenheit. At this temperature range, the dogfish problem is miminal. If you love codfishing, then go to Captree, Montauk, or Freeport. Bring your extra long, semi-rigid pole, super sharp hooked rigs, Penn #500 or 3/0, forty pound test line, brightly colored red sinkers (eight to sixteen ounces) to a party boat and be paying guest for a day. For those who accept the challenge of party boat fishing for cod the rewards can be great: camaraderie at sea, good cold, clean air, and a chance for a pool winning fish. Whether fishing from your own boat or from a party boat good technique is still essential. You might not be able to pick the fishing spot, fish multiple rods, or fish over the clam chum, but you can do many things to improve upon your chances of catching a big Mr. Whiskers.

Reels: For codfishing, I have found the Penn #500 to be most appropriate. It has rapid retrieve, can quickly dispense with dogfish and handle any codfish that you will catch in these waters. For wreck fishing, I prefer a Penn 3/0 over that of the Penn #500. For very, very deep codfishing way offshore where the chances of catching a vagrant monster bluefish are possible, I prefer a Penn 4/0. The disadvantage to this reel mounted on a seven-and-a-half foot stiff rod is that the combination is too heavy for holding all day. You also lose an awful lot of line control. For beginners a good combination is a Penn #500 spooled with forty pound test line on a thirty or forty pound rod. This combination gives the advantage of a reel that can be used for mackerel, bluefish, fluke, etc. The rod has the same multiple advantages.

Line: All of my codfishing outfits employing Penn #500 reels are spooled with thirty pound test Tournament Ande. These outfits take bass, fluke, bonito, big bluefish, small tuna, albacore and cod without any difficulty. When catching "tons" of doggies, the line must be checked constantly for abrasions and "peel-offs."

Cod Rigs and Knots: All codfish rigs are tied to swivels or eye hooks with the five turn, improved clinch or jam knot. Use the old-fashioned deep sea rig and eliminate bought rigs which tend to have all types of gingerbread (beads, colored plastic, etc.). Learn how to make a drop loop in your main line to which you will attach an eighteen to twenty inch, forty or fifty pound test leader to a snelled hook. If you do not want to make dropper loops, purchase three-way swivels or Quick Rigs available at any tackle shop. Your first hook on leader should be about two feet above your sinker. The second hook should be on a similar leader about two feet above the lower hook. You may wish to fish for other species with your top hook. Species will determine size of hook. Learn how to snell and snell all hooks to leaders. You can save tons of money by learning how to make dropper loops and snelling your own hooks. Bought rigs are expensive.

Hooks: Hooks I employ for codfishing are of the 5/0, 6/0 and 7/0 regular shanked Sproats made by Mustad. These hooks have a nearly round bend with a straight point. Most of my fishing is done with regular 5/0 Sproats. The smaller hook has the advantage of more natural action in the water when baited, stays away from the main line and doesn't tend to foul as often. Hooks wrapped around terminal tackle do not catch cod. Heavier hooks tend to foul more often. Sproat hooks hone to the teeth, surgical needle in sharpness to the point that they will almost snag and stab a piece of glass, is what you want at the end of your tackle. This is where it is at when Mr. Whiskers arrives.

Sproated hooks have the advantage of a wide angle of penetration. A cod's mouth is cavernous and you want super sharpness and a good angle for setting the hook. A majority of the hooks which you purchase do not have the points which you want. Get yourself an oil stone and sharpen up your hooks. Many a battle and fish is lost here. If just a little bit of my hook, which is always protruding from the baited clam, comes in contact with any part of the cod's inner mouth or lips it is "bye-bye" Mr. Whiskers who is now on a hooked elevator en route to the surface. Many times, if not most of the time, it is the sharpness of the hook by itself which catches the fish, not a super energetic snap of the rod. The deadsticking technique reinforces this fact. Super sharpened hooks also allow you to set your hook with whippy poles which I prefer over stiff "gin pole" rods. Oftentimes you will catch cod who leisurely swallow your bait and seem to fall asleep without even tugging on your line. They are already caught. Other times you will catch those frisky cod who impulsively pounce upon your bait.

(Continued on page 27.)

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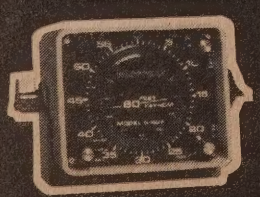

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SOUTH SHORE Fishing Report

MONTAUK

Capt. Paul Forsberg of the **Viking Fishing Fleet** reported that there is fantastic mackerel fishing in the Block Island area. Huge schools of big Boston mackerel have moved into the area and are devouring every bait put into the water, making it difficult at times to get at the big cod and blackfish underneath them. Paul said that the night whiting fishing on Friday and Saturday's 7 PM trip has also been fantastic. The whiting are mixed sizes and anglers have been filling up their bags in short order.

Capt. Dick Vigilant of the **Triton II** reported that the blackfishing in the Block Island area has been excellent with a few codfish mixed in. Saturday's fishing was excellent for the Tinkers Fishing Club, but the action was not quite as good on Sunday when the Atlantic Anglers of Huntington were aboard.

Capt. Rade of the **Marlin IV** happily reports some excellent fishing on Friday, to the tune of roughly 120 cod and pollack all taken in a furious one hour blitz. The cod ran up to 38 lbs., and there were several 20 pounders. The pool fish was a 44 lb. hake, 15 pollack between 20 and 35 lbs. were also taken. All the hot action was at Cartwright. Forty big blackfish were also decked and the blacks are really jumbos with a lot of 10 and 12 lb. fish. The blackfishing and whiting action should make lots of people happy and with cod improving all the time, it looks like the Montauk fishing is really getting hot now. Capt. Rade says that there are good green fish as far as the cod are concerned and good numbers to go around. In addition, there are still some humpback porgies being taken as well. The Marlin IV will be sailing all winter long, so come on down.

MORICHES BAY

John at **East Moriches Bait and Tackle** called to tell us that Tony Rizzo caught 113 flounder fishing with his son and Roland Hengel at the Elbow in Moriches Inlet. These fish were taken on clam in just 3½ hours and fish went up to 3 lbs., with the average weighing 1¼ lbs. This was on Saturday. Another Saturday flounder pounder was Gregg Lesiewicz fishing with clam which in two hours brought him 45 flounder at Buoy 36 in Moriches Bay in just 2½ hours. This excellent flounder fishing does require heavy chumming with minced clam or bellies. Codfishing has been slow but fish are being taking at around the 80 ft. line. Lots of whiting and ling at the 45-50 ft. line.

Frank at **Angler's Den South** tells us that on Saturday flatfish fanatic Sam Ambrico and cousin bailed 45 flounder at buoy 36 on bloodworms on the flood in Moriches Bay and that equally fanatical flounder freak Bob Armbruster pulled over 100 flounder at the Elbow in Moriches Inlet on bloodworms on the flood. Chumming was a big assist. Al Rodriguez and Dave had 35 whiting and ling just outside Moriches Inlet, no more than a mile out. Cod up to 25 lbs., at around the 60 ft. line, but no bonanzas.

CAPTREE

The Capt. Scottie reports that on Thursday a lunker cod of 60 lbs. 2 oz. was caught by John Lapitsky, owner of the Frontier Diner in Glen Cove. Another huge cod of 53 lbs. was taken by John Amaro of Islip on a wreck. Twenty cod were taken in total, most in the 25 to 30 lb. category, with five or six fish in the 6 lb. class. Lots of blackfish mixed in. On Saturday, 24 pollack ranging from 2 to 12 lbs. and a few small cod were caught. Open bottom has been producing ling, whiting and dogs at about the 160 ft. mark.

Capt. Neil of the **Lady Ann** called to tell us that on Saturday, fares had seven cod between 20 and 30 lbs. and 52 whiting and ling, all on open bottom. Sunday while fishing wrecks and open bottom, four cod and 76 whiting, ling and blacks were decked.

The charter boat **Yankee** hit a productive wreck on Saturday fishing south of Fire Island with 27 cod coming over the rail. The pool fish went 46 lbs. 11 oz., and was taken by Freeport angler Walt Stammel. Capt. Bob says the fish were nearly all large size. He says that open bottom is still not productive, that the fish are mainly on the wrecks. However, with the water cooling off, productive open bottom fishing should be with us.

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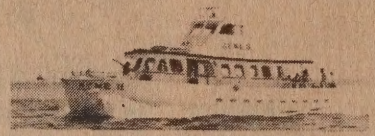

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BELLMORE

Roy at **Merrick Marine Supplies** tells us that draggers, open boats and private boats are getting the pick on cod of varying sizes, though no bonanzas. Roy weighed in a 27 lb. 8 oz. cod, taken by George Smith of the East Bay Anglers. Roy also tells us that bass are being taken at the Tin Can Grounds, but he has not heard what they were caught on.

BALDWIN

Andy at **Arthur Street Fishing Station** reports that Dr. Al Horing and crew had four cod up to 33 lbs. on Sunday fishing 160 degrees out of Jones Inlet in 100 ft. of water. Also, Herb Campton and Allen Green happily pulled 91 good sized flounder and returned 30 more to the water fishing on Saturday at the Coast Guard Station for fish up to 1½ lbs., on worms, without chumming. If you want flounder, get 'em now before the real cold weather comes in.

N.Y. BIGHT Fishing Report

FREEPORT

Capt. Richie of the **Starstream II** reports that fishing over the weekend was slow. A few nice cod from 30-40 lbs. are being taken everyday. The quantity is low, but fish up to 50 lbs. can be taken. Fifteen to sixteen cod were taken on Sunday along with a 9 lb. hake and a few big blackfish.

Capt. Al reports that on Sunday, Pat Scheurio of Middle Village landed a nice cod of 47 lbs. and on Saturday an angler took a 46 pounder. Night whiting fishing has been good, with high hook taking as many as 81 nice sized fish.

The Aloma II reports excellent whiting and ling fishing right out of Jones Inlet. On Saturday, he fished Ambrose and loaded up with nice sized whiting and

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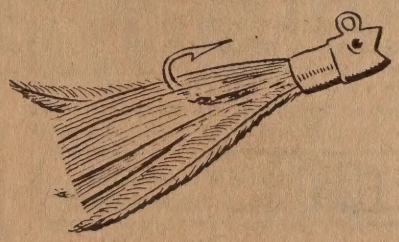

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ling. On Sunday, Jones Inlet gave the anglers plenty of whiting from 1 to 2½ lbs., and a few ling.

The **Miss Freeport** reports a good weekend for flounder. On Saturday, the boat fished in the Squaw Island area and took 8-20 medium sized flounder per person. On Sunday, the boat fished the Freeport area from Swift Creek to Fundy Creek and took a fair catch from this area.

Edna from the **Poop Deck Dock** called to tell us that Capt. Johnnie A, who is now back up from Virginia for the winter took out his first codfish charter on Saturday and came back with a catch of 40 cod up to 40 lbs. for a party of 20 people.

Blue Fin II called to tell us that the cod action is looking up. Saturday and Sunday saw fair catches on the boat fishing south/southeast of Jones Inlet in 80 to 100 ft. of water, fish from 6 to 32¼ lbs. The 32¼ pounder was decked by Frank B of the Hudson Bay Fishing Club of Freeport. Capt. Sy has been fishing rocky areas and open bottom both. On Saturday fish ran 15 to 25 lbs. and on Sunday, from 6 to 32¼, all on skimmers. Not one dogfish was caught either day! POINT OF INFORMATION: All cod caught were LOADED with sand eels. Sy saved a bucket full and will be using them for bait on his next trip.

Roy Flood at **Mako Marina** reports that Walter Stamel of the Atlantic Anglers brought in a 46 lb. 11 oz. cod on Saturday fishing in 80 ft. of water east of Fire Island Inlet. George Maisch of the Atlantic Anglers decked a 22½ pounder plus two other cod on Sunday in the same general area. Roy says that a reliable source told him that whiting are being caught inside of Jones Inlet, between the rock jetty and the Meadowbrook Bridge on clam baits. Now that's news!

POINT LOOKOUT

The **Marie III** called to tell us that on Saturday's wreck fishing expedition, eight lunker cod were decked, with the pool fish of 38 lbs. being taken by Bull Caffasso, beating out Bob Powell's 32 lb. cod. The weight of these two fish broke the boat's scales of justice at pool weigh-in time. Fish ran from 15 to 38 lbs. Sunday's charter for the Seaford Fire Department saw 12 cod come over the rail. Three were taken on open bottom at Cholera. Then they took off to Saturday's offshore wreck again and pulled nine more cod. The day's fish ran to 15 to 25 lbs. Bags were also filled out with loads and loads of whiting which were caught drifting outside Jones Inlet between the bell and whistler in 30-35 ft. of water.

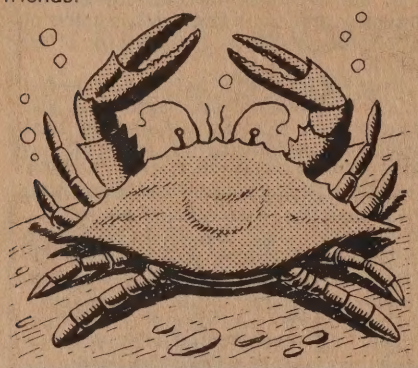
SHEEPSHEAD BAY

The **New Eagle** reports very good fishing both day and night. On Saturday, he did excellent fishing the Ambrose area. Catches consisted of whiting and ling up to 3 lbs. The **New Eagle** will be sailing Wednesday, Friday and Saturday nights at 6 PM and everyday at 7 AM.

The **Blue Sea III** reports excellent whiting and ling fishing. Loads of fish

from ½ to 2½ lbs. are being taken at Scotland and Ambrose. Catches of a 10 gallon pail or better per person are being caught.

The staff of Long Island Fisherman was saddened to learn today of the sudden death on December 3rd of Capt. John Kull, former captain of the Sheepshead bay charter boat Jonny K II. Although we did not know John personally, we had many conversations with him via telephone. He was a good man and loved his fishing. We are sure that he will be missed by his family and friends.



NORTH SHORE Fishing Report

AQUEBOGUE

Warren's Tackle Center reports that feedback on fishing activities for this week were pretty scarse. The weather kept most anglers at their TV sets getting no closer to fish than Jack Cousteau.

SELDEN

Anglers Den North reported that flounder were being caught in most of the customery locations. Dennis Schmidt and his Dad collected 40 nice flounder on Monday in spite of the winds, rain, and snow. One of Kenny's customers who ventured out on the Star Ship early in the week came up with a 62 lb cod. Leading in the 2 store's contests is Jim McCarthy with a 148 lb, 11 point buck. Kenny also asked us to inform our readers that he will be conducting rod building classes during the month of Jan. on Saturdays and Sundays beginning at 12 noon. For further information, call 516 732 9671, or 516 878 9759.

NORTHPORT

Bowman's Sporting Goods reports that fishing for most of the local fishermen is pretty well wrapped up at this time. Reports for the area were limited pretty much to the Lilco Power Plant, where most of the areas fishing activity takes place through the winter months. Schoolbass and some small blues are still finding their way into coolers. They require less ice then they did just a short while back.

HUNTINGTON

Four Winds Tackle reported flounder and tommy cods provided most of the activity for this week in the general area, particularly in Huntington Harbor and Lloyds Harbor. School bass were also reported to be taken at the Lilco Power Plant.

Capt. Don of the **Ever Ready** has called it a season and asks us to let you know that he will be sailing again comes spring and hopes to see you aboard.

RYE

Point Tackle reported that cabin fever is beginning to take its toll on local fishermen. In spite of weather forecasts for snow and generally poor weather, Larry has gotten a number of calls asking if he was open. At any rate, quite a few brave souls did get themselves into gear(no pun intended(and the flounder that they caught off the beach, Oakland Wall, and the Town Dock was just the medicine needed to get rid of the December blahs.

GREENWICH

Sportsmens Den reports that the flounder are really in close at this time with the majority being caught right off the town dock and other docks along the shores. The flats are pretty thick at this point with most running close to a pound and a half. Tommy cods and frost fish (whiting) are also showing up in catches providing a nice mixed bag for fishermen.

Blues and bonito taken on a trip this season aboard Capt. Mike Miller's Apus. The happy anglers are Karsten Soleng, Tom Barton, Ray Schwartz, Chuck Anderson, John Sekelsky.

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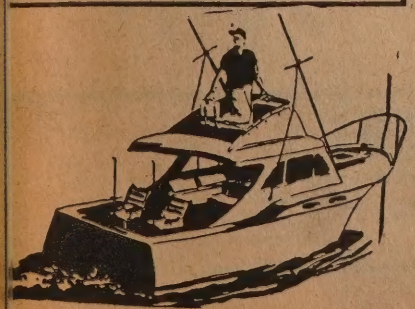

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FIRE ISLAND CODFISHING

(Continued from page 14.)

A majority of my cod actually catch themselves and SUPER SHARP HOOKS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE. The key word here is SHARP, SHARP, SHARP like a surgical needle. To fish with dull, rusty hooks is a complete waste of time. If you cannot afford good, sharpened hooks, you really do not belong out on the ocean codfishing.

In purchasing codfish rigs, remember that cod are interested in clams. Do not present them with an underwater hardware store. You will confuse them to say the least. Some old pros call this problem cod shyness or cod spookiness. Hungry cod simply want to get to the point where the food is located.

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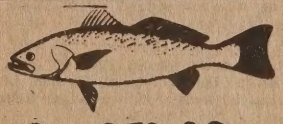

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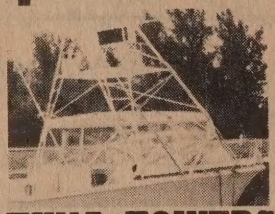

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NATIONAL SCENE

(Continued from page 7.)

ber one), and ranked third in the North Atlantic behind bluefish and striped bass. With a little sacrifice and effort on everyone's part, we may be able to return them to that prominence once again.

Squid Plan Highlights

This plan won't be of great concern to most anglers, but it should be. While squid are of no importance as a rod and reel quarry, they are a vital link in the oceanic food chain. Among the many species that feed extensively on squid are striped bass, bluefish, cod, pollack, tuna, swordfish, and most sharks. Of course, squid themselves are predator and can effect the population levels of smaller prey.

The FMP, just as the PMP, allocates American fishermen 10,000 metric tons of Illex and 14,000 of Loligo—probably more than they will catch. The remainder of the surplus (20,000 tons of Illex and 30,000 of Loligo) go to the foreign fleets. The foreign ships are also restricted to certain areas and can only use specified gear. All U.S. vessels catching squid for sale must have licenses and report catches. The same applies to dealers and processors. Several alternatives are presented in the plan. Most important is the possibility of opening the area between 100 and 200 fathoms to foreign fishing. Some offshore lobster interests succeeded in getting this restriction into the original PMP. However, the foreign fleets could more efficiently harvest squid in the deeper water and avoid most of the by-catch of porgies, sea bass, and fluke that occurs within the edge of the Shelf in the winter. This is our biggest objection to that fishery at the present time. The conflict with offshore lobster gear can be resolved in other ways. We'll also be discussing other possible gear changes to minimize the by-catch.

Dont forget the dates of these meetings:

December 9—Cape May Courthouse, N.J.

December 12—Cooperative Extension Building, 246 Griffing Ave., Riverhead, N.Y.

December 14—Molly Pitcher Inn, 88 Riverside Ave., Red Bank, N.J.

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HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGE-PORT AM	BRIDGE-PORT PM	NEW-PORT AM	NEW-PORT PM	DATE
THUR	5:11	5:35	5:59	6:18	5:48	6:11	6:39	7:12	8:26	9:03	8:42	9:11	5:20	5:39	12/8
FRI	6:02	6:27	6:50	7:11	6:40	7:07	7:30	8:03	9:22	10:01	9:32	10:04	6:11	6:34	12/9
SAT	6:54	7:18	7:41	8:04	7:31	8:00	8:19	8:54	10:15	10:54	10:23	10:56	7:01	7:25	12/10
SUN	7:44	8:10	8:32	8:52	8:23	8:54	9:10	9:47	11:10	11:49	11:14	11:47	7:50	8:16	12/11
MON	8:35	9:03	9:24	9:51	9:16	9:54	10:02	10:41	—	12:02	—	12:05	8:41	9:10	12/12
TUE	9:27	9:56	10:17	10:47	10:14	10:51	10:57	11:37	12:45	12:58	12:39	12:58	9:34	10:05	12/13
WED	10:22	10:51	11:12	11:45	11:12	11:50	11:53	—	1:43	1:56	1:32	1:53	10:28	11:01	12/14
THUR	11:15	11:48	—	12:09	—	12:09	12:36	12:53	2:46	3:02	2:27	2:49	11:24	11:59	12/15

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet.....—0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6 ½ hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	—0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R.I.	+0 48
Long Branch	—0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	—0 18
Shark River Basin	+0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	—0 12
Seaside Park	—0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+5 34
TOMS RIVER	+4 37
Waretown	+2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	—0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+2 33
Beach Haven	+1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	—0 01
Seven Islands	+0 12
Graveling Point	+1 05
Mullica River	+1 55
Grassy Bay	+1 08
ABSECON INLET	+0 14
Atlantic City Pier	—0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+0 46
CORSON INLET	+0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+0 45
Cape May Harbor	—0 02
Rehoboth Beach	—0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	—0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	—0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Harts Cove	+1 30
Potunck Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	—0 38
Democrat Point	—0 38
Coast Guard Station	—0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	—0 19
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+0 38
JFK Airport	+0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	—0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	—0 08
Herod Point	—0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 19
Horton Point	—0 20
Truman Beach	—0 42
Falkner Island	—0 13
Sachem Head	—0 10
Branford Harbor	—0 07
New Haven Harbor	—0 08
Milford Harbor	—0 07
Stratford	+0 27
Shelton	+1 36
Black Rock Harbor	—0 03
Saugatuck River	—0 01
South Norwalk	+0 10
Greens Ledge	—0 01
Stamford	+0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+0 06
Greenwich	+0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land	—0 14
Montauk Inlet	—0 25
Montauk Point	—1 13
Niantic	+1 20
Stonington	—0 33
Noank, Mystic River	—0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	—0 01
Norwich	+0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+1 10
Lyme	+1 24
Essex	+1 38
East Haddam	+2 41
Higganum Creek	+2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	—0 10
Execution Light	—0 06
Manhasset Bay	—0 01
Hempstead Harbor	—0 11
City Island	—0 03
Rye Beach	—0 28
Port Chester	—0 09
Mamaroneck	—0 08
New Rochelle	—0 24
Davids Island	—0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	—0 10
Miami Beach	+1 17
East Point	+0 53
Egg Island Point	+0 33
Cape Henlopen	—0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+0 58
Ossining	+1 53
Peekskill	+2 24
West Point	+3 16
Newburg	+3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	—0 10
Tiverton	+0 21
Beavertail Point	—0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+0 10
Bristol	+0 10
Warren	+0 21
Nayatt Point	+0 12
Pawtucket	+0 21
East Greenwich	+0 16
Wickford	+0 12
Narragansett Pier	—0 08
Point Judith Harbor	—0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+0 05
Old Harbor	—0 14
Watch Hill Point	+0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

12/2	7:09	4:29
12/7	7:14	4:29
12/12	7:19	4:29
12/17	7:22	4:30
12/22	7:24	4:32
12/27	7:27	4:35

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
12/10	12/17	12/25	12/3

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
THURS.	1:30	**8:10**	2:05	**8:40**
FRI.	2:20	**9:05**	2:55	**9:40**
SAT.	3:15	**10:10**	3:55	**10:40**
SUN.	4:20	**11:15**	4:55	**11:35**
MON.	5:25	—	6:50	**12:25**
TUES.	6:40	**1:00**	7:10	**1:30**
WED.	7:45	**2:00**	8:10	**2:30**
THURS.	8:45	**3:00**	9:10	**3:25**

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